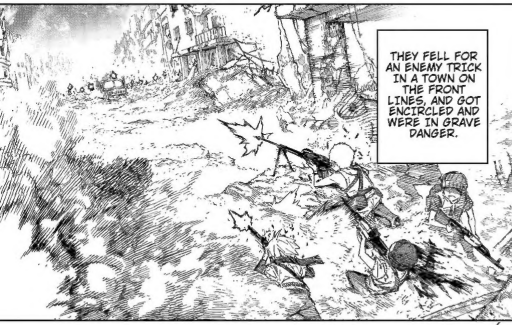
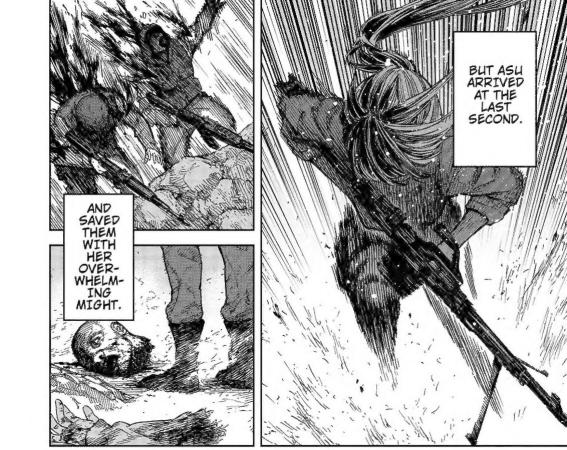
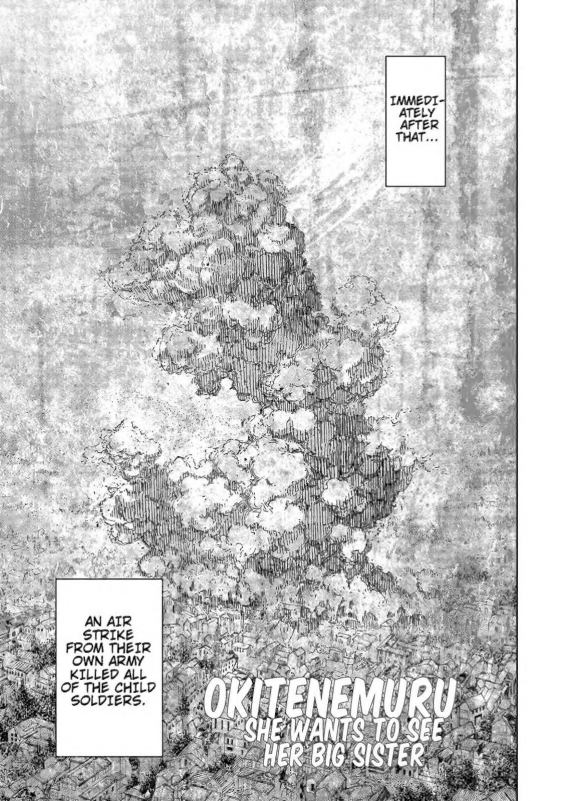
SHIKI AND THE CHILD SOLDIERS WERE INEXPERIENCED.
ASH MADE THE RIGHT CALL.

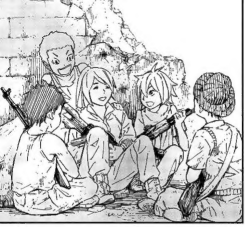

THEY FELL FOR AN ENEMY TRICK IN A TOWN ON THE FRONT LINES, AND GOT ENCIRCLED AND WERE IN GRAVE DANGER.

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY'D BE WIPED OUT.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LAST, SHIKI!
DAMN IT ALL!
HANG IN THERE, ROYCE!

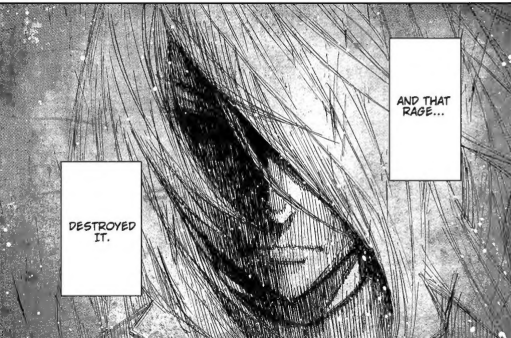

AND SAVED THEM WITH HER OVER-WHELM-ING MIGHT.
BUT ASU ARRIVED AT THE LAST SECOND.

BUT...


IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT...
AN AIR STRIKE FROM THEIR OWN ARMY KILLED ALL OF THE CHILD SOLDIERS.
OKITENEMURU
SHE WANTS TO SEE HER BIG SISTER



MY GUESS IS THAT THERE WAS A POWERFUL REACTION THAT FORCED ALL OF THE KIDS' FRUSTRATION AND RAGE INTO HER MIND.


AND THAT RAGE...
DESTROYED IT.

THIS MISSION COULDN'T HAVE GONE BETTER!
GAHAHA!
I'M SURE THEY WERE HAPPY, RIGHT?
THEY DIED AS HEROES, FOR THE GLORY OF THE STATE.
WELL DONE, EXTERNAL INFORMATION.
A GREAT VICTORY INDEED!
GAHAHAHA!
THE DECOY OPERATION HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN WIPING OUT THE ENEMY,
BUT IT HAD COST THEM THEIR LIVES.
THE CHILD SOLDIERS WERE DECOYS USED TO LURE OUT THE ENEMY.
SHE TURNED ON THE GOVERNMENT ARMY AND EXTERNAL INFORMATION.
WHEN ASH LEARNED OF THIS,

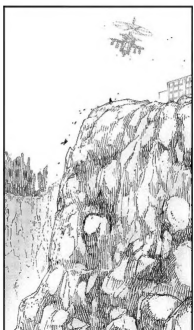
SHE USED HER REM AWAKENING TO ANNIHILATE EVERYTHING.
NO ONE COULD STOP HER.
ASU...
S-STOP IT...
AAH...
AT THAT POINT SHE WASN'T EVEN HUMAN.

ASU!

I'M SORRY.

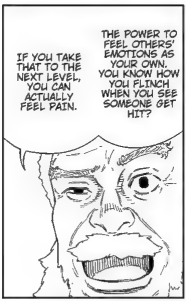
IT'S ALL...
MY...
FAULT.

BATTA
BATTA
BATTA
BATTA



...
I HAD NO IDEA.
RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME AND SHIKI.
THAT WAS HOW ASU DIED.
?!
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY SHE DIED?!
AND SHE STILL SERIOUSLY BELIEVES THAT ASU IS ALIVE.
SHIKI STILL HASN'T BEEN ABLE TO FORGIVE HERSELF.
WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO FIND IT AFTER THAT,
ASU'S BODY.

THE REASON YOU'RE DREAMING OF ASUNA IS RESONANCE.
IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT,


IF YOU TAKE THAT TO THE NEXT LEVEL, YOU CAN ACTUALLY FEEL PAIN.
THE POWER TO FEEL OTHERS' EMOTIONS AS YOUR OWN. YOU KNOW HOW YOU FLINCH WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE GET HIT?

RESO-NANCE?
THAT'S RIGHT.

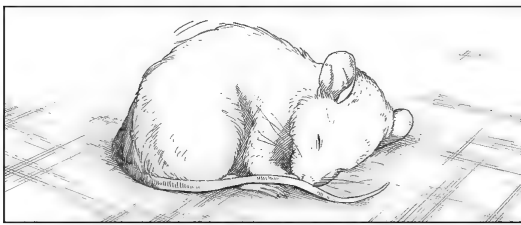
IT'S PROBABLY DIRECTLY LINKED TO MIRROR NEURON ACTIVITY.
ASU ALSO HAD A POWERFUL RESONANCE ABILITY THAT CAUSED REACTIONS.
IT WAS STRONG ENOUGH THAT IT CAUSED HER TO LOSE HER OWN IDENTITY.

DURING THE LAST MISSION, YOU WERE ABLE TO SENSE THE THOUGHTS OF THE DRONES WHEN YOU HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING THEM.
THE REACTIONS MAY BE CAUSING YOUR RESONANCE TO AWAKEN, JUST LIKE ASU'S.

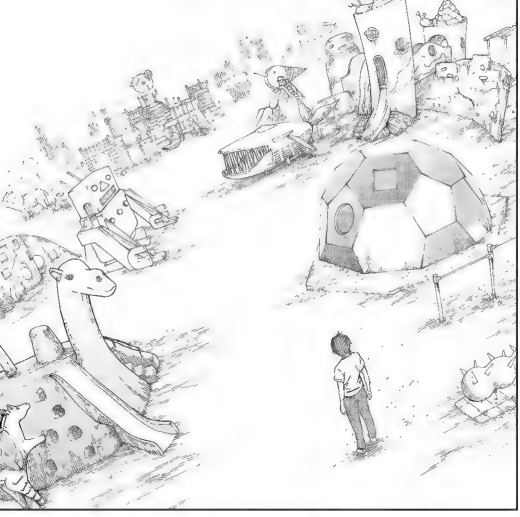
I SEE.
IF KANATA'S HAVING DREAMS OF ASU BECAUSE HE'S RESONATING WITH HER,
THAT WOULD MEAN SHE'S ALIVE.

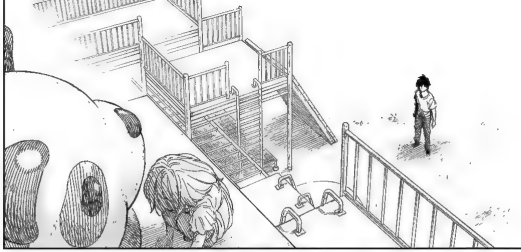
BUT SHE'S DEAD.
THAT'S A FACT.
I DON'T KNOW...
MAYBE SHE'S ALIVE, AND SHE'S BEEN DREAMING THIS WHOLE TIME.

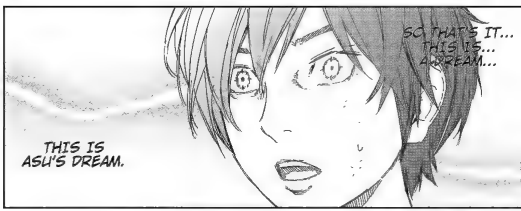
IS ALIVE?
ASU...



DREAMING THE WHOLE TIME...
AND SHE'S BEEN






SO THAT'S IT... THIS IS... A DREAM...
THIS IS ASU'S DREAM.

CLING
CLING

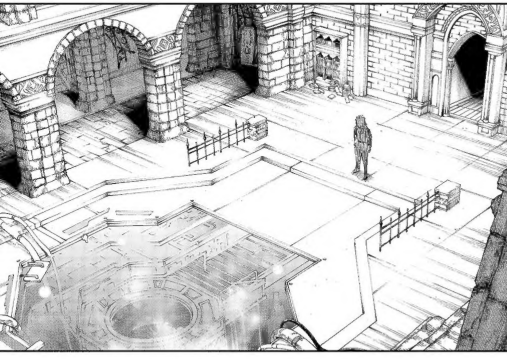
STAY AWAY.

YOU'RE ASU, RIGHT?

I'M A FRIEND OF SHIKI'S.
SHIKI...
ROLL
コロン
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHIKI REALLY WANTS TO SEE YOU.
I TOLD YOU TO STAY AWAY.

I TOLD YOU TO
近よるなって
言ったのに
STAY AWAY!

TAP
TAP
TAP



HOW LONG
HAVE I WAITED FOR THIS DAY...

THE OTHER OKITENEMURU WAS A KID, HUH?
I KNEW IT.

NOW...
THE WORLD CAN FINALLY BE PURIFIED.

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ASU?